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THE WASHINGTON POST
4 DECEMBER 1982

Indictment Dismissed in Sale to Libya

A federal judge dismissed the indictment yesterday of a former Canadian businessman after a prosecutor said the charges, related to the investigation of former CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson, were technically flawed.

District Judge Richard L. Williams granted a request by prosecutor Theodore S. Greenberg that the Aug. 2 indictment against Robert A. Manina be dropped. Greenberg said a new indictment will be sought.

Manina, a former Ontario business executive, had been accused of violating U.S. regulations in the sale of sensitive, American-made night vision equipment to Libya via Canada in 1977.

In an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Manina said Wilson and two prospective Libyan customers visited Manina's office in August 1977. The night vision gear later was shipped to Libya as part of a \$900,000 long-range surveillance system.

Wilson was convicted last month in Alexandria on federal firearms and export violations involving the shipment of four handguns and an M16 rifle to Libya.

Manina, who was living in Ireland at the time of his indictment and who now lives in Canada, has denied any wrongdoing.